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COPY

OF

MEMORIAL

OF

LIEUTENANT DONOVAN,

(LATE BRITISH LEGION)

TO

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS

THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF.

London:

PRINTED BY D. N. SHURY, 7, BERWICK STREET, SOHO.

BRITISH MUSEUM

MEMORIAL,

&c. &c.

THAT he had the honor of serving as a subaltern in the Queen's Rangers, during which period he was in several actions. In consideration of his service and the recommendation of his commanding officers, he was appointed captain in the North Carolina Regiment in May, 1780.

That in June following, at the particular request of the Honorable Major Cochran, he was induced to resign his company in the North Carolina Regiment, (as will appear by the certificate of Colonels Hamilton and Tarleton,) and accept a

Lieutenancy in the British Legion, under a promise of the first Troop or Company that should become vacant in that Corps.

That the following day Major Cochran left Camden, under leave of absence, for England, and did not again join the Regiment until it was in presence of the enemy at York Town, where he was killed, and Lieutenant Donovan consequently prevented from receiving that promotion which he expected from his patronage.

That Captain Huck of the Cavalry was killed in July 1780, and Captain M'Cullock of the Infantry died in consequence of wounds received in the action at Hanging Rock, in which action Lt. D. had the honor to serve.

That Lt. Donovan being wounded the 16th of August, at the battle of Camden, supposed mortally, and not being able to join the Regiment, Colonel Tarleton omitted recommending him, supposing him dead, as it was so reported, though, when

able, he was on very active and severe service; at the request of Colonel Balfour, as will appear by the certificates of Colonels Balfour and Small, till he was so ill as to be obliged to go to Charleston in a litter, where he underwent a severe but fruitless operation, which confined him to his bed nine weeks.

That as soon as he recovered he again volunteered his services with the *Cavalry*, under the command of Colonel Thompson (now Count Romford,) and served under him the whole time that he was in Carolina.

That during the whole of those services he received Infantry pay only.

In addition to those services, at the time when Count D'Estaing appeared on the coast of America, the Navy, under Earl Howe, being very much distressed for Surgeons and Seamen, he volunteered, and took with him thirty Seamen, who served during the two cruises on board that

Fleet, and at the particular request of Earl Howe, (who offered him a commission in the Marines, or a Surgeon in the Navy, both of which he declined.) He sailed the first cruise on board the St. Albans, Captain Onslow, and the second on board the Cornwall, Captain T. Edwards, one of the squadron under Admiral Byron, which arrived at Sandy Hook with a great number of sick on board.

That in 1795, being at Plymouth, when an epidemic fever raged amongst the troops, embarked for the West Indies, and ten of the Surgeons and Assistant Surgeons had died of it, and not one of the Surgeons of the Town would, on any consideration, venture to attend them, he volunteered his services for ten weeks, laboured very hard, having no asssistant for the first three weeks, although he never had less than seven hundred patients to attend daily; the *only* recompence, the happy reflection of having saved the lives of many hundreds of the troops, whom otherwise must have perished.

Your Memorialist, therefore (with the strongest reliance on your Royal Highness's acknowledged humanity) is induced to hope that the services, which he has thus detailed, and his consequent affliction, (having at different periods been confined to his bed, and suffering under excruciating tortures for upwards of four years of his life) will be deemed deserving of some mark of His Majesty's bounty; a favour, which your Memorialist would never presume to apply for, were he not unfortunately incapacitated by his wound, from the exercise of the honorable and lucrative profession to which he was educated.

And your Memorialist, &c.

CERTIFICATES.

No. I.

I do certify, that Lt. Jeremiah Donovan served under my command in the British Legion, and that he was desperately wounded in the affair of Camden, as stated in the annexed Memorial; that his conduct was such that it was my intention to have promoted him the first opportunity after the affair of Camden; but on account of Mr. Donovan's being returned mortally wounded, and not being able to join the Regiment after his being wounded, I had no opportunity of putting my intention into execution. That upon my arrival at New York, after the capture of the army at Yorke Town, I understood that Lt. Donovan was dead of his wounds, in consequence of which I omitted his name in the return of the Regiment.

I do further certify, that the late Major Cochran informed me that Mr. Donovan joined the British Legion under promise from him of being promoted to the first vacant Troop or Company, which was prevented from being done for the reasons contained in the annexed Memorial.

From my knowledge of Lt. Donovan's situation, and having been a witness of his merit as an Officer, I earnestly recommend him to the appointment of Captain en Second in my late Regiment.

BAN. TARLETON,
Lt. Col. Commandant.

May 15, 1785.

(Copy.)

No. II.

I do certify, that Lt. Jeremiah Donovan, served under the command of Lt. Colonel Tarleton, in the British Legion, and that he was des-

perately wounded in the affair of Camden, as stated in the annexed Memorial; and that what Mr. Donovan has advanced in the said Memorial, respecting the promise of a company, made by the late Honorable Major Cochran, is to my own knowledge true. I have had many opportunities of witnessing Lt. Donovan's conduct and bravery as an officer, and his private character as a gentleman procured him respect in the Corps to which he belonged; that his present situation is such as he describes in his Memorial, having no other means of subsistance, but his half-pay as Lieutenant.

GEORGE HANGER,

Major British Legion.

20*th May*, 1785.

(Copy.)

No. III.

I do hereby certify, that Lt. J. Donovan, of the late British Legion Infantry, was Captain

of a Company in the North Carolina Volunteers, commanded by me, and that at the particular request of the Hon. Major Cochran he resigned his Company in the said Regiment and accepted of a Lieutenancy in the British Legion Infantry, with a promise of being appointed to the first Company that should be vacant in the Infantry of the British Legion.

JOHN HAMILTON, Commandant,

Late Roy. No. Car. Regiment.

Portland Street,

June 21*st*, 1788.

(Copy.)

No. IV.

Oxendon Street,

June 10, 1787.

At the request of Lt. Donovan, of the late British Legion, I hereby certify, that in April 1781, (when in movement with a body of troops under my command) on the banks of the Santee River in South Carolina, I found the said

Lieutenant (with a party of his Corps) stationed at a post on the communication to Camden, the fort erected at Nelson's Ferry. I then saw with regret that Lt. Donovan who had formerly received a dangerous wound through his body, lay languishing with severe pain; on the wound in question breaking out with such serious and alarming symptoms, that the Surgeon whom I directed to visit him deemed it absolutely and immediately necessary that he should be conveyed to Charles Town in a litter, which accordingly happened. Lt. Donovan (on his health being in some degree restored) afterwards served with the Cavalry under Col. Thompson of the King's American Dragoons; and in justice to every appearance and report respecting Lt. Donovan's services, it is added that he displayed every laudable zeal as a brave and gallant Officer.

Given under my hand, time and place before mentioned.

JOHN SMALL, Lt. Col. Commandant,
2nd. Battalion late 84th Foot.

(Copy.)

No. V.

I certify, that Lt. Jeremiah Donovan served in a very active and gallant manner in Carolina. It appears that the severe wounds he received in action, concurring with the accidental omissions which the distresses and irregular nature of that service induced, prevented his obtaining a promotion indisputably intended for him.

I beg leave to recommend his case to consideration, thinking him both from the circumstances and from his conduct as an Officer much deserving of favor.

Signed,

RAWDON.

London,
June 21, 1788.

(Copy.)

No. VI.

London,
April 12, 1792.

I do hereby certify, that Lt. Donovan came to Charles Town in South Carolina after the action of Camden, very severely wounded, and remained there a considerable time with little hopes of recovery. And I do hereby bear testimony to the zeal of Lt. Donovan, and that he readily undertook a service of considerable difficulty and risque upon my requisition, when he was by no means well, or recovered from his wounds; and the cause of my applying to him on that occasion was the confidence I *had* in his bravery, and character as an Officer.

N. BALFOUR.

LETTER
From Lt. Col. DOYLE to Lt. J. DONOVAN.

SIR,

As you wished me to give you my opinion of your services in the late war, of which in a good measure I had been a witness, I send you the inclosed, which, however, I confess very inaccurately expresses what I think they merit. I should grieve to think that any Certificate should be necessary to your obtaining the reward you so well deserve; still more do I regret the very little service my signature can be of to you; but such as it is, receive it, because it is your due from him, who, on that account is,

SIR,

Your faithful servant,

J. DOYLE.

Lt. DONOVAN,
Late B. Legion.

(Certificate mislaid.)

D. N. SHURY, Printer, Berwick Street Soho.

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